

News Release



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Contact:
Roy Stearns
(916) 654-7538

Fire Restrictions, Travel Restrictions, And Closures For Some California State Parks

Sacramento -- The California Department of Parks and Recreation announced today that due to the extreme fire danger conditions existing in various parts of California, and due to impending closures of National Forest areas adjacent to State Parks, fire restrictions and limited closures of some park areas are being imposed to prevent fires and improve public safety.

In Northern California, Mount Tamalpais State Park was closed as of Tuesday, October 1, 2002 due to the increased wind and fire danger in the coastal area.

In Southern California, the U.S. Forest Service will be closing the San Bernardino National Forest as of Friday, October 4, 2002. California State Parks has two parks that are adjacent to that National Forest, Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area. Because the parks share wilderness areas with the National Forest, State Parks will be closing all back-country roads and trails in the wilderness areas of both parks, prohibiting all entry for either day-use or camping in the respective wilderness areas.

"The fire danger in the backcountry area is extremely severe at this time and we have seen very erratic and dangerous fire behavior in recent weeks," said Gary Watts, the State Parks Superintendent for the Inland District. "As a result, we must take the steps necessary to protect the resource and to insure safety for our visitors. However, while we are closing the remote areas, we are still encouraging people to visit and enjoy the places which will remain open."

While wilderness areas are being closed, day-use and camping sections of the parks not located in the wilderness areas will remain open, but with no open fires permitted, as follows:

(More)

Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness – No Open Fires Permitted.

Open Areas:

Stone Creek Campground
Idyllwild Campground
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and Long Valley, including Desert View Trail, for day-use only.

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area – No Open Fires Permitted.

Open Areas:

Miller Canyon Group Camp (Existing reservations will be evaluated, no new reservations will be accepted during the closure period.)
West Fork Group Camp
Old and New Mesa Campgrounds and Visitor Center
Cleghorn Day Use Areas
Marina
Black Oak and Day use Facilities in the Marina Area (i.e. Sawpit)
Chamise, Sycamore and Live Oak Landings (Boat In)

In the areas remaining open to the public, no campfires or other types of open fires will be permitted. In addition, all types of BBQ grills or other such devices are prohibited. Camp stoves will be permitted in designated campsites only. In addition, smoking will be restricted to designated sites within developed areas only.

In all parks and other backcountry areas of California, the public is urged to use extreme caution during this period of extremely windy and dry conditions. The dry north winds significantly increase the chance that any spark can become a major fire.

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